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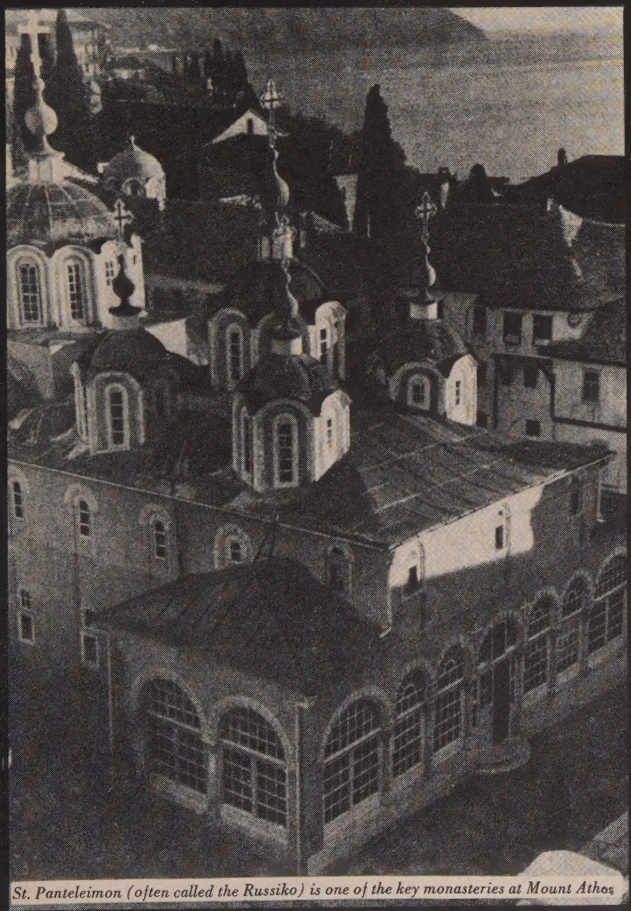

St. Panteleimon (often called the Russiko) is one of the key monasteries at Mount Athos

Cover Story

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MOUNT ATHOS

A famous spiritual center of Orthodox Christianity

For nearly nineteen centuries, the name 'Mount Athos' has carried a deep meaning to the peoples of the Near East, the regions of the Aegean Sea, to those of the Eastern Orthodox Faith, and to clergy and scholars the world over.

Lying, as it does, to the east of two other peninsular promontories, which extend like the prongs of Neptune's trident, into the Aegean Sea, the peninsula of Mt.Athos is inhabited by monasteries of the Orthodox Faith, most of which are Greek.

The peak itself rises like a pyramid, with a steep summit of white marble, to a height of over 6,000 feet. One can still find traces of the ancient canal, cut by Xerxes before his invasion of Greece in 480 B.C., at the narrow neck of the peninsula.

(continued on page 23)

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COVERS THE WORLD

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1960 IN REVIEW

The Major Faiths in the United States are usually referred to as the Protestant, Catholic wish. In recent years, and especially during the last year, a fourth Major Faith has begun erge in the public consciousness, namely, - the EASTERN ORTHODOX. This was para- in the eyes of even the entire Western World, when Roman Catholic hierarchs continued ke much' of Eastern Orthodoxy thru repeated comments and overtures.

The most striking example of such 'recognition' by the Vatican was that of June 6,1960, Pope John XXIII announced the formation of ten commissions and two secretariats for thcoming 'ecumenical' council; one of the secretariats being that assigned to the 'Union Christians'. Headed by Cardinal Bea, this secretariat has the task of 'helping' Protest- nd Eastern Orthodox to follow the work of the council and to 'find' the way to unity.

This attitude of the Vatican of 'recognizing' Eastern Orthodoxy was reflected in the U.S. various Catholic media: - the 'Register', July 24th, stated that 'As regards doctrine..... s(Orthodox) are one in faith with Catholics on almost all points, excepting the doctrines maculate Conception, Primacy and Infallibility of the Pope; they hold that the only infall- uthority in the Church is an Ecumenical Council(General Council) consisting of the os of the entire Church, Greek and Latin; hence, they regard the Latin Church as in . and hold no communion with it; they maintain that no organ of infallibility exists, and eject the decrees of all councils, in which their Bishops took no part; they hold that the acy of the Roman Pontiff is not of Divine, but of ecclesiastical institution.....(and then only) primacy of honor'.

Aside from such attempts by Rome to achieve measures towards 'unity', several striking ces were also made both in inter-Orthodox circles, as well as in Protestant areas. One most interesting of the pan-Orthodox movements was that in the U.S., where the Bishops ven of the seventeen Orthodox jurisdictions met, under the leadership of Archbishop s(James) of the Greek Archdiocese of North and South America, in a series of three ngs, thru the year. At these conclaves, significant steps were taken to promote pan-Orth- nderstanding and cooperation and a Commission was appointed to establish a 'Standing opal Conference' of Orthodox bishops. Intent and purpose of this 'Standing Conference' meet twice annually and to initiate agencies to consolidate and advance various phases of ial Orthodox Church activities. Thru this media, it is anticipated that the future welfare rogress of the entire Church will benefit.

History was also made in December when Archbishop Fisher of Canterbury, Primate of urch of England, met with both Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople and with Pope XXIII. Cardinal Bea, head of the new secretariat for 'union', immediately said that Rome s the Anglican Primate's proposals for a 'commonwealth of equal Churches'; and that any cannot be built at the sacrifice of the integrity of Catholic teaching.

Among Protestant churches, the mergers of the three Lutheran bodies into a united ican Lutheran Church'; and the merger of the Krummer Mennonite Brethren Conference he Mennonite Brethren Church of North America were both indicative of the 'Spirit' that eeping thru the Christian World in these present days. Especially interesting, also, was oposal of Dr.Eugene Carson Blake at the General Assembly of the National Council of hes, last month in San Francisco, that the Presbyterian, Episcopal, Methodist and United h of Christ look ahead to eventual union. (This would create a body of over 18 million souls ould allow both 'catholic' and 'reformed' traditions to be included.-ED.) As Archbishop s(Greek Orthodox prelate) said, regarding Dr.Blake's proposal, 'It is definitely a step in

the right direction. I'm very happy with this. I don't think God is completely indifferent and strange to this movement'.

Of great interest to Eastern Orthodoxy in America, was a panorama of events, includi the South American trip of Archbishop Iakovos; the convening of the 15th Clergy-Laity Congr of the Greek Archdiocese; the 'Weeping Icons' of Hempstead, L.I.,N.Y.; and a multitude of oth happenings thruout the country among the various Orthodox jurisdictions. To individually hig light these would be impossible in limited space, but suffice it to say that they have all been dealt with,in AREO, in detail during the past year.

While religious pilgrimages are a commonplace in many parts of the world, 1960 saw t first American Pilgrimage to the Ecumenical Patriarchate (Seat of Spiritual Authority for Pa Orthodoxy); on this occasion, some 500 pilgrims sailed for Istanbul(Constantinople) and their hallowed objective, the Phanar, where the Patriarch Athenagoras received them in audience

During 1960, the Western World, particularly the western hemisphere, was host to the traveling Catholicos Vazken, Supreme Patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, who spe nearly six months visiting the far-flung diaspora of Armenians. As head of the some 2,500,0 Armenian faithful, the Catholicos maintains his See in Etchmiadzin, Soviet Armenia.

On the legal front, in Church vs State complexes, a series of decisions made news in t past year; most notable was the end to the long struggle,of 15 years duration, between two fa tions of the Russian Orthodox Church over possession of St.Nicholas Cathedral in New York the Russian Patriarchal jurisdiction emerging as winner. In New Hampshire, Dr.Willard Uphaus, Methodist, was found guilty of contempt for failure to reveal names of guests at sum mer camp meetings of his World Fellowship,Inc.; the state attorney general, Louis C.Wyma a la McCarthy, had termed it a 'subversive' group; Dr.Uphaus was released last month, afte the Judge refused to 'go along' any further with the attorney general in keeping Uphaus locke up. The U.S.Supreme Court also established 'new frontiers' with a docket of 450 cases, which 26 directly involve issues relevant to religion; most of these have yet to be decided, a they were on the Fall Calendar.

In governmental circles, including that of politics, religion was of vital import thruout the entire year. One of the most sensational such stories was that of the snide attack by the authors of an Air Force Manual against the clergy of the non-Roman Catholic Faiths, as bei 'communist-infiltrated'. In Latin America, on the other hand, the Roman Catholic Church w the object of attack by the governments of Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Haiti, an Bolivia; while all of these countries are predominantly Roman Catholic, charges of 'politica interference' by the Church were the chief source of antagonism; in addition, the centuries o poverty and ignorance, fostered on the common people by the Church, were finally finding a common spirit of resentment and revolt against the old feudal system, which had its champi in the Church. As a result, the Roman Church is hard put to fend off the ardent evangelical efforts of Protestant missionaries, who are, more and more, finding a ready audience amon the down-trodden people. A similar reaction also evidences itself in predominantly Buddhis countries, where the governments commenced seizure of Catholic schools, and smaller num bers of non-Catholic ones; Ceylon, Burma and Laos being three main such areas. In the Communist lands, Catholicism, and also non-Catholic bodies, found ruthless pressure being exerted against their activities; Poland, East Germany, Hungary, and Yugoslavia highlighted this fact thru numerous examples of government restriction and annoyance.

The political election of the U.S. is too obvious and recent to have to summarize; the effect of Catholic action against the Protestant 'unrest' towards the democratic candidate is well-known. It waits to be seen in the years ahead as to whether autocratic and subversive Catholicism will make headway in its expressed desire to 'take over America'.

Statistics published late in 1960 showed that church membership in the U.S. was at a record 112,226,905; this represents a known 63% out of an estimated 178,000,000 population. Included in the grand total of church members were: 62,543,502 Protestants, 40,871,302 Catholics, 2,807,612 Eastern Orthodox, and 5,500,000 Jews. Another interesting record was that of the American Bible Society, which reported a distribution of 29,530,000 copies of the Scriptures thruout the world in one year.

In the field of church-related education, 1960 saw the expenditure of close to six ed fifty millions of dollars for non-public schools and colleges; however, it was sig- nt that 1,000 fewer persons were reported preparing for the ministry last year, than norm; in fact, the 1960 figure of ministerial students was the lowest in five years. factors for this decline hinged on 'scholarship aid' and adequate housing for married nts. Today, due to inflation, family income, in many cases, makes it impossible for ts to send their children to any schools of higher education. The Institute of Life Insur- reported recently that most parents underestimate college costs by 15% to 30% and, faced with the reality of the cost, are forced to abandon any ideas for giving their en the education intended for them.(Municipal college cost is about $1,000; State Univ- cost is about $1,500; and Private College cost is around $2,250.-ED.)

Regardless of other trends, however, church construction continued its upswing to ecord heights; 1960 total was over $1,000,000,000 for the first time in history. The al total for all private building during 1960 was about $40,000,000,000. Compare this nal, private building investment with government expenses for last year, which were billion, and one obtains a good picture of the expansion ratio for private enterprise deral spending.

$47 billion of the Federal expenditures for 1960 went to military uses; this is about for every man, woman and child in the country, and is 8% more than the total combined ated personal income taxes for all adult taxpayers. The national debt, which is now at 286.3 billion dollar mark, carries an annual interest of $9 billion alone; it is interesting e that over 94% of the national debt was accumulated thru one war or another; only $25 n has been paid off of wartime debts, and it, of course, during peace times. Other per a expense is: 65¢ per person for the United Nations; 6¢ per person for disarmament; er capita to pay veterans benefits; $22 per person for agriculture-related activities; er person to pay for Social Security, Health, Education, Welfare and Housing; $9.50 per n to give foreign aid and assistance. By seeing the way the 'winds are blowing' it can fely predicted that the inflationary spiral will continue at the rate of not less than 3% nnum, and as high as $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% per month.

1960 contributions to churches, by Americans, came close to $3,750,000,000. Related s are expenditures of $6,600,000,000 for cigarettes alone during the same period. This s that each adult averaged 197 packs of cigarettes per 12 months. From this it is seen he average American gave about 40¢ to churches, for every 60¢ spent on tobacco. In eld of gambling, Americans spent $47 billion during 1960; which is $2 for every $1 that nt on food by the average person. Of this total of $47 billion, $9 billion is clear profit e syndicates and it is reliably believed that law-enforcement officials receive half of otal to give 'enforcement', or rather 'lack of' enforcement, at the whim of the syndicates. total of $47 billion does not include narcotics, prostitution, illegal liquor sales, or labor steering. Percentage-wise, gambling revenues run about two-fifths the total attained by , retail establishments thru sales of merchandise. J. Edgar Hoover also reported last that crime had climbed to its worst level in history, with an eleven percent increase; ries and burglaries showed the greatest rise.

Alcohol expenditures rose to some $12 billions of dollars in the U.S.; this includes beer, and liquor sales. T.J.Donovan, president of Licensed Beverage Industries, bragged that would show a total of 230 million gallons of liquor sales. He forgot to mention that there ow an estimated 5,050,000 alcoholics in the U.S.(five times the cancer cases, and ten the T.B. cases.-ED.). He also forgot to state that one out of every four mentally distur- mericans is an alcoholic. 62% of all civilian adults(64,900,000) use one form of alcoholic age or another, on occasion; of these, the greater total is in the 21-29 year age bracket. y, over 400,000,000 dollars are spent annually on liquor advertising of one kind or another.

Total number of church denominations, in the world, reached 1,382, with the World cil of Churches including only 178 of these; however, the 178 bodies include some 60% of rotestant, Anglican, Orthodox peoples, with 70% of these being in Europe, America, Austral- d New Zealand. Only 1% of all Asia is Protestant Christian; 30% of the world's popula- s Christian, of one type or another. By 2,000 A.D., Christians will only represent 20% world's population.

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE CHURCH

FOREIGN

HAILE SELASSIE - ETHIOPIA - CHRISTIANITY. The recent attempt of a political faction to overthrow Haile Selassie I, 69 -year old Emperor of Ethiopia, has once again highlighted the struggle that accompanies any small nation thruout its history. To understand the peculiar internal workings of Ethiopia, apart from other small countries, one has to take a glance back thru history.

Situated on the Red Sea, and bounded by the Sudan to the north and Kenya and Somali Republic to the south, Ethiopia is an extremely diverse land. Filled with conflicting currents of enmity of 'highlander' for 'lowlander', peasant against nomad, Christian against Muslim, the country has been the scene of thousands of years of war and strife. Originally, a captive land of the Egyptians, the Ethiopians('dusky ones') engaged in tribal, racial, and national struggles. Freeing themselves from the Egyptian pharaohs in the 11th century B.C., the country became a strong monarchy, which was subject to the whims of the priest caste, that held most of the real power in the country.

With this background, from pre-Christian days, it is not hard to understand that the 'conversion' of Ethiopia merely meant a 'going-over' of these old traditions to a 'new name'. Thus Ethiopia became a stalwart 'defender' of Christianity and eventually was a country lost in a 'sea of Muslims' that surrounded her on all sides. As Gibbon says' encompassed by the enemies of their religion, the Ethiopians slept for near a thousand years, forgetful of the world by whom they were forgotten'. The title 'King of Kings' merely refers to the fact that the land is filled with small provinces and districts, each of which has a chieftain; the 'King of Kings' is an 'emperor', who exacts , as best he can, tribute from these local chiefs, who consider themselves as much a 'king', as does the emperor. Royal lineage from Solomon and Sheba is often claimed by all these various chiefs and emperors, altho their 'right' to that lineage may be actually based on 'usurping' of thrones.

Contrary to what news commentators have recently said, Haile Selassie (born Ras Tafari) was the first Emperor to introduce a measure of reform and progress into this backward country. During the period, in which he has been 'King of Kings', he has been seriously hampered by two factors: i.an atrocious financial system ii.complete lack of any men of integrity, honesty or ability. He has also been extremely skeptical of excepting aid from the old 'colonial' powers, because of the past history of what the Portugese, Italians, and English had done to his country, and especially since they had refused to sell him modern arms to repel outside invaders. For example, the U.S.A., thru the Point Four Program, has for seven years been aiding in technical assistance and monies to develop Ethiopia; In 1959, the Soviet made the sum of $100,000,000 available to Ethiopia, at low interest.(The entire country's annual budget is about that same amount.-ED.) This sum is THREE times what the U.S. has given in SEVEN years. Can one wonder why Ethiopia has developed 'slowly' since the war, as newsmen are prone to comment. In Laos, for instance, $350,000,000 has been given by the U.S., in a six year period, and that country is still seemingly pro-Communist; in addition, it is not a Christian land,- it has only two million people as opposed to 20 million in Ethiopia,- and strategically, is not near as important as is Ethiopia, which controls the entry to the Red Sea from the

an Ocean, which means control of access to Suez.

, as to Christianity in Ethiopia, the Coptic Orthodox Church of Ethiopia is independent and its own native-born 'Abuna', Patriarchal head. The Church is allied with the Egyptian Copts h is traditional. There is also a small, struggling Evangelical Presbyterian mission body operates in Ethiopia; it functions under great difficulties, because of the status of the trad- al Coptic Church. It does, however, have ten pastors to date, with some 5,000 adherents.

sizing up the recent 'revolt' against Selassie, one can only say it is merely another of a adic attempts by a minor 'chief' to try and become 'King of Kings'. It was not, as rumored, vement to bring 'education, advancement and progress to a backward land'. The West ld really give strong financial aid to this small land, which represents a moderating and dying force in Africa and parts of Asia.

* * * * * * *

TIC PATRIARCH TO VISIT ETHIOPIA AND MOSCOW. Patriarch Kyrillos VI of andria, Egypt, head of the Coptic Orthodox Church of Egypt, has accepted an invitation to Moscow this year, as guest of Patriarch Alexei, head of the Russian Orthodox Church.

invitation was extended to him during the recent visit of Patriarch Alexei to the United o Republic, which was one of his stops on the month-long tour of the Middle East and Near countries.

re going to Moscow, however, the Patriarch intends to stop in Ethiopia to visit Haile ssie.

* * * * * * *

SIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCH COMPLETES TOUR OF NEAR EAST. Patriarch ei of Moscow, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, returned to Moscow, this month, after nth spent in touring many of the Near and Middle East countries, where he met with both rch and political leaders.

ding a ten-man delegation, the 84-year old patriarch said, in Damascus, where he spent days, that the purpose of his tour was primarily 'to establish cordial relations between he Orthodox Churches'. From Damascus, the patriarch went to Alexandria, where he met Patriarch Kyrillos of the Coptic Church and Patriarch Christopher of the Orthodox Church press conference in Cairo, the patriarch noted that the purpose of his tour was to streng- the cultural and religious relations between the Soviet and the Middle East States, which the 'home of all the prophets'.

ding for Beirut, Lebanon, the delegation was warmly welcomed by Orthodox Metropolitan Salibi; from thence, they flew to Jordan, where they spent three days. In Jerusalem, Old - Jordan, the patriarch was welcomed by Orthodox Patriarchal Deputy, Archbishop Athen- ras, and the Jordanian area commander and Governor. Patriarch Alexei then conducted a ksgiving service in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Having an inflamed knee and tiring n the exhausting trip, the aged prelate asked the delegation to go on, without him, to Israel ew the New City of Jerusalem. The Israeli government gave an elaborate reception for visitors and gave them escort to the various sites, they wished to see, in their sector. The gation then returned to Jordan, after a few days, and once again accompanied by the Patri- Alexei, they flew onward to Istanbul.

tanbul, members of the Holy Synod greeted the arriving Russians at the airport and took n to the Patriarchal Church of the Phanar, where a thanksgiving service was celebrated. menical Patriarch Athenagoras then held a series of conferences with Patriarch Alexei nethods of strengthening ties between all Orthodox jurisdictions. Once again faced with rture schedules, the group took off for Athens, Greece, where again a series of talks were with the Archbishop of that country. Said Patriarch Alexei: 'Such visits should be made e often, because they give life and unity to the efforts of Christians everywhere to estab- real peace'. From Greece, the delegation headed for Moscow, and the completion of their ney. (picture on p.17)

OLD BELIEVERS' HEAD DIES IN MOSCOW AT AGE OF 82. Metropolitan Flavian, eader of the Old Believers' sect, passed away late last month in Moscow at the age of 82. He ad headed the sect since 1953.

The Old Believers split from the Russian Orthodox Church in 1667 in a dispute over liturgical eforms introduced by Patriarch Nikon. The dissidents divided into two groups, one of which ought to establish its own priesthood and the other in opposition thereto.

The first group set up its own hierarchy and grew in numbers and importance. The other action has since split into numerous sections and has remained only a small minority of the otal body of Old Believers.

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MOSCOW RADIO ASSAILS CARDINAL SPELLMAN. Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York was attacked severely by Moscow Radio because of the recent Christmas message that he Cardinal delivered.

The cardinal's message, recorded from the Far North, where he celebrated Midnight Mass or servicemen stationed at Thule Air Force Base in Greenland, warned against the 'disaster of appeasement' and urged constant vigilance against Communist 'betrayals and dangers'. He also pointed up the question: 'What will be the next move of this century's mad czars as the self-appointed godlings of Soviet Russia map their blueprint for fraudulent freedom thru disarmament...'?

Moscow Radio responded to this attack by stating that the Christmas message of Spellman's was 'more like a message from Satan than from a holy prelate'. The station termed the clergyman as a 'commissioned agent to the Pentagon adventurers'.

Moscow Radio also said that by the cardinal calling for 'a nuclear arms drive' he was going counter to the admonitions of the Pope himself' and that such words were 'monstrous and incongruous coming from the lips of a Catholic priest'.

By studying the words of the cardinal, said the station, one can see that it is not from any spiritual considerations that he indulges in attacks on disarmament...but....the hidden motive s simply greed, the same greed that was the undoing of Judas.....Cardinal Spellman having sol himself to the Pentagon, could not find time to celebrate mass in St.Patrick's Cathedral in Ne York...but....recorded his message on tape...and went on Pentagon assignments to military base....we do not know what he is doing there, but can guess on the basis of his previous trip o military bases....when....he blessed pilots who were making spy flights over the USSR...the blessing did not help Francis Gary Powers...and...if airman Powers was paid $2500 a month for his services, one can only guess how much was handed to the holy fathers of the Spellman type for corrupting souls by using the name of God to cover up the dirty work'.

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AMERICAN JEWS ASSAIL BEN-GURION STAND. Jewish religious and civic groups gave vent to their feelings by denouncing Prime Minister of Israel, David Ben-Gurion, for his rece slap at Jews outside of Israel, as being 'godless.'

In addressing the Jerusalem congress, Ben-Gurion had said: 'Since the day when the Jewish State was established and the gates of Israel were flung open to every Jew who wanted to com every religious Jew has violated daily the precepts of Judaism and the Torah of Israel by re- maining in the diaspora'. Then he quoted Jewish sages: 'Whoever dwells outside the land of Israel is considered to have no God'.

A literal storm of protest was released by Zionists, Orthodox, Reformed, and Conservative bodies, as well as by the anti-Zionist groups. The Orthodox said the Prime Minister's com ments were 'erroneous'; non-Zionists said they were 'grieved and shocked'; pro-Zionists said the ideas were to be 'unequivocally rejected'; others termed the comments as 'fantastic

ense'.

Last Spring, Ben-Gurion also aroused a political controversy by his novel interpretation of Scripture that only 600 Jews made the 'exodus' from Egypt, instead of the 603,555 of Numbers I:46. Parliament (Knesset) even went so far as to attempt to censure him and try to remove him from office. (Apparently, the Prime Minister likes to handle 'hot potatoes' - ED.)

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LARITIES BETWEEN SHINTOISM AND HEBRAISM SHOWN. Toyozo W.Nakarai, essor of Old Testament at Christian Theological Institute, states, in a recent article in ounter', that there are definitely some similarities between Shintoism and Hebraism in ects of worship ii.ritual iii.idea of a national God. (He is very careful to point out, ver, that Hebraism is not to be confused with Judaism)

ays that the distinct difference between Shintoism and Hebraism is that Shintoism is ological and polytheistic, and Hebraism is historical and monotheistic, altho Shintoism is what henotheistic(i.e.-belief in one God, though not to the exclusion of belief in others.ED).

ives a whole series of common, ancestral similarities, a few of which are here given as mples: i.Shintoism centers its nature worship around the sun; but venerates also the moon the stars. These were also objects of worship among the ancient Hebrews. ii.Shintoism es various images; so does the Bible show that this was common to the Hebrews. nimal worship; Ancestor worship; Divination, Magic, Amulets, Purification by water; eaness of certain animals, such as pork; Sacrifice; and the idea of a national God. All of are shown to have parallels.

Shintoism means 'path of the Gods', and is peculiar to Japan. Hebraism is a term that applies to the religion of the Hebrews as practiced during Old Testament days, and it, thereby, includes not only Jews; to explain, Judaism is the religion of the Jews, known as the people of Judah - it is based, not on the Books of Moses, exactly, but more on the rabbinical writings,from the Talmud on. - ED.

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LE IS STILL JAPAN'S BEST NON-FICTION SELLER. The Bible maintained its ion as Japan's non-fiction best-seller in 1960, with sales reaching 1,886,909. Only in the A. do Bible sales surpass those of Japan (in the U.S., average annual sales are in excess 000,000.-ED.)

Bible Society officials said current interest in the Bible, among Japanese, is reflected creasing newspaper quotations and in special radio and TV Bible programs. The sales redited to the earnest and full-time efforts of some forty colporteurs, who regularly towns and villages thruout Japan. Often, these Bible men are the only Protestant or stian witness that some of these communities receive during the entire year.

More than 29,530,000 copies of Scriptures were distributed thruout the world by member odies of the United Bible Societies, for an all-time record, according to recent reports. The UBS also said that large increases in distribution were noted in Cuba, Brazil,Argentina, and Colombia, 'where new religious liberty gave the colporteurs greater freedom'.

More Bibles and Baptist churches for Catholic Quebec were promised by the Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada. The new provincial government of Premier Jean Lesage was redited with the 'new era' of freedom. As the Evangelicals said: 'The atmosphere has hanged, a short time ago our people were jailed. They now get police protection. There is oing to be a big change. We are going to build many more Baptist churches.'

The New Testament portion of the 'New Wnglish Bible' will be published March 14th by ambridge University Press and Oxford University Press. It will be released thruout he English-speaking world. The new Bible is the work of an interdenominational body

of Biblical scholars representing 11 major church groups in the British Isles. It took some 13 years to complete the translation of the New Testament; the new work will stress the use of the 'common language' currently spoken, even as it was in the day of our Lord.

- Altho millions sing 'O, Little Town of Bethlehem', only 57.7% of people quizzed, in a door-to-door survey of Bible knowledge in California, knew it was the city of Jesus' birth. Best scoring percentage, 69.9%, was on the question: 'What Biblical giant did David kill'? The lowest correct answers, 21.7%, came on the query: 'Where in the Bible are the Ten Commandments found?'

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HINESE DRY-CLEANING SHOP BECOMES CHURCH ON SUNDAYS. Every Sunday, oland Foo of Singapore, who runs a dry-cleaning business in the heart of Singapore's teem-g Chinatown, transforms his shop into a church so that children from poor families can arn to worship God.

picture of Jesus is placed on the wall; benches, stools, chairs and even empty milk boxes e put in place, as seats. Though there is no altar, some 40 Chinese, mostly children, gather the 'shop church' once a week to sing hymns and listen to sermons by two young preachers. ymns are sung in three languages: English, Mandarin, and Cantonese.

ys shop owner Foo: 'I am very happy to let them make use of my shop for I want these ildren to be taught to love God'.

* * * * * * *

URMESE PREMIER TO BECOME A BUDDHIST MONK. Prime Minister U Nu, of urma, plans to relinquish his political career and become a Buddhist monk at the end of his rm of office.

he announcement was made by Bohmu Aung, Minister of Transport and Communications, who id the Prime Minister does not have to call for a general election until 1964, but has already ade up his mind to give up politics rather than lead his party thru another campaign.

he announcement caused no surprise in Rangoon, because U Nu had long ago made known his esire to join the Buddhist monkhood.

- The Prime Minister has been the leader in the movement to have Buddhism declared the State Religion of Burma. He has met violent opposition, in this endeavor, from the Roman Catholic minority (less than 1% of the population), who have said such a move was 'dangerous'; however, they did not explain why their being the State Religion in Italy, Spain, Columbia, etc. was not also 'dangerous'. - ED.

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REEK METROPOLITAN RESIGNS. Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Constantine Megrelis of erres and Nigreta, 76, has resigned from office due to advanced age and poor health. He is he second such Orthodox bishop to resign within the last three months.

he problem of aged bishops, who continue occupying posts even though more or less inactive as been a problem for the Holy Synod for years. The Greek Ministry of Cults has, however, ow taken the initiative and asked the Synod to request resignations from all elderly prelates o that younger, more active men may take on their duties and responsibilities.

s Minister of Cults, George Voyadjis, explained: 'Many complaints have been submitted to he Ministry about such cases, and the Holy Synod must make the necessary decisions so that he Greek government will not have to enact measures on their own'.

- Metropolitan Megrelis studied at the Theological School of Halki, Istanbul, and has been a bishop since 1914. Ill health has sidelined him for the last ten months. - ED.

EK QUEEN INAUGURATES HOME FOR AGED REFUGEES. Queen Frederika urated a settlement for aged Greek and Armenian refugees in the suburb of Elioupolis, Athens, last month.

project will be operated by the Greek Y.W.C.A., and consists of 113 one-room units, that e 164 refugees, including married couples or small families. The project was made poss- thru the united efforts of the World Council of Churches (Division of Inter-Church Aid) and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

dent refugees pay no rentals whatsoever; about one third of them, who have no permanent me, will even receive monthly allowances from the Y.W.C.A.

inauguration was attended by leading government and civic leaders. The Queen unveiled a ue with the names of Greek and American donors, who contributed to the project's cost.

It is one of the tragedies of Church work, that Eastern Orthodoxy is so backward in the establishment of just this type of practical evidence of Christian charity. For instance, Mt.Athos, which has twenty large monasteries, many of which are practically vacant, could easily give shelter to single, refugee Orthodox men, especially the aged. As the Lord said: 'If you do unto the least of these, you do it unto Me'. - ED.

For instance, last November saw the arrival in Geneva,Switzerland, of 82 aged White Russian refugees, many ill or physically handicapped, from Hong Kong. They are being distributed to various centers and homes in countries of Europe, to be cared for by the World Council of Churches for the rest of their lives. During the past four years, close to 500 aged, White Russians have been brought to safety from Hong Kong. Here, then, is an opportunity for Greek and Russian Orthodoxy to do something for their 'own' - fit out some of the Mt.Athos vacant, or partly vacant, monasteries; staff them with versatile men and open their doors to aged men of Orthodox descent. One never would have to worry about the future of Mt.Athos again, for it will truly be doing God's work.(See cover story - ED.)

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D CALENDAR' GREEK ORTHODOX REQUEST MORE RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. The gy and lay delegates of a meeting of Greek Orthodox 'Old Calendar' believers adopted a res- on last month, in Thessaloniki,Greece, calling on the Greek government to end discrimina- against adherents of the group.

e observers of the Old Julian Calendar asked particularly that the government prohibit the ce from interfering with their holding of services. In addition, they asked to be excluded n paying parish taxes imposed by the State: these parish taxes are used to aid the official k Orthodox Church, which is a State Religion in Greece.

v also asked that weddings, performed by their clergy, be considered legal. Tens of thous- of married couples belonging to the Old Calendar Church are not recognized as being ully wedded, either by the State or the Church.

The primitive Church originally, and universally, observed the Julian Calendar: Julius Caesar introduced the Julian Calendar in 46 B.C., but due to a slight error in it, Gregory XIII, in 1582, introduced the calendar, presently in use by the civilized world, known as the Gregorian Calendar. To introduce the new calendar, it was essential to 'drop' ten days. This 'dropping' of ten days (Oct.5th,1582 became Oct. 15th,1582 - ED.) causes the discrep- ancy that exists between the 'Old Calendar Church' and the 'New Calendar Church'. When the Orthodox Church officially adopted the 'new' Gregorian Calendar, many believers refused to 'go along'. This created an internal 'breach' in the Church and formed the body known as the 'Old Calendar Church'. - ED.

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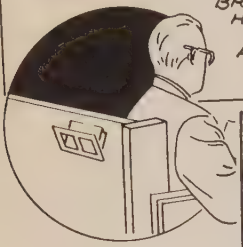
RELIGIOUS REMARKABLES - - - By Scheel

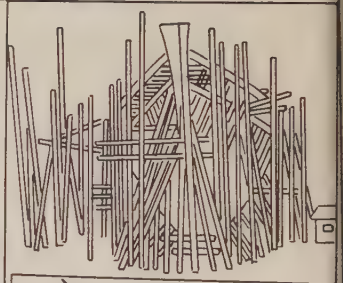
T. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

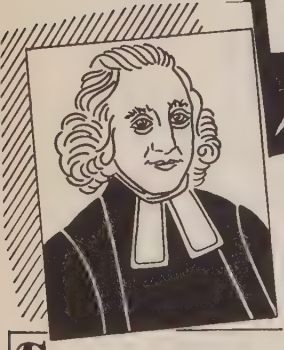
WHAT IS BELIEVED TO BE THE WORLD'S FIRST CHAPEL BUILT EXCLUSIVELY FOR ALCOHOLICS RECENTLY WAS DEDICATED IN BRIGHTON, MICH. IT BECAME THE NEWEST ADDITION OF THE BRIGHTON HOSPITAL FOR ALCOHOLISM.



A LANCASTER, PA., **CLERGYMAN** QUIT A $10,000 FULL-TIME INDUSTRY JOB TO SERVE BETTER A $1,300-A-YEAR PART-TIME PASTORATE.

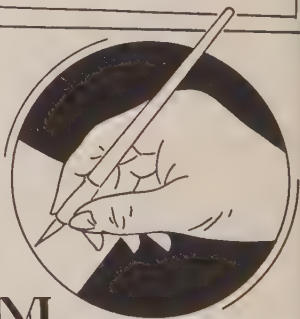
DURING THE NINETEENTH CENTURY, BY ORDER OF NEW YORK CITY'S MAYOR, **THE BELLS OF TRINITY CHURCH PEALED OUT FIRE ALARMS.**





THE FIRST SHIP EVER BUILT AT THE WORLD-FAMOUS SHIPYARDS AT BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND, **WAS MADE TO TAKE EXILED EUROPEAN PRESBYTERIANS TO THE UNITED STATES.**

SAMUEL STILLMAN (1739-1807) PASTOR OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BOSTON, **WAS A MEMBER OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION OF 1788.**

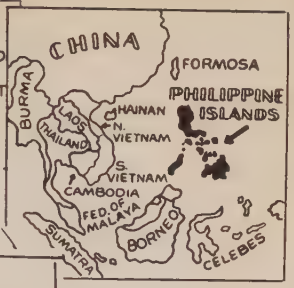


MRS. BRENTON F. MILLER OF BURLINGTON, VT., LIKE THE MONKS AND SCRIBES OF OLD, IS COPYING THE COMPLETE BIBLE IN LONGHAND. **SHE HAS COMPLETED 45 BOOKS IN 119 DAYS** AND HAS 21 BOOKS TO GO.

Scheel

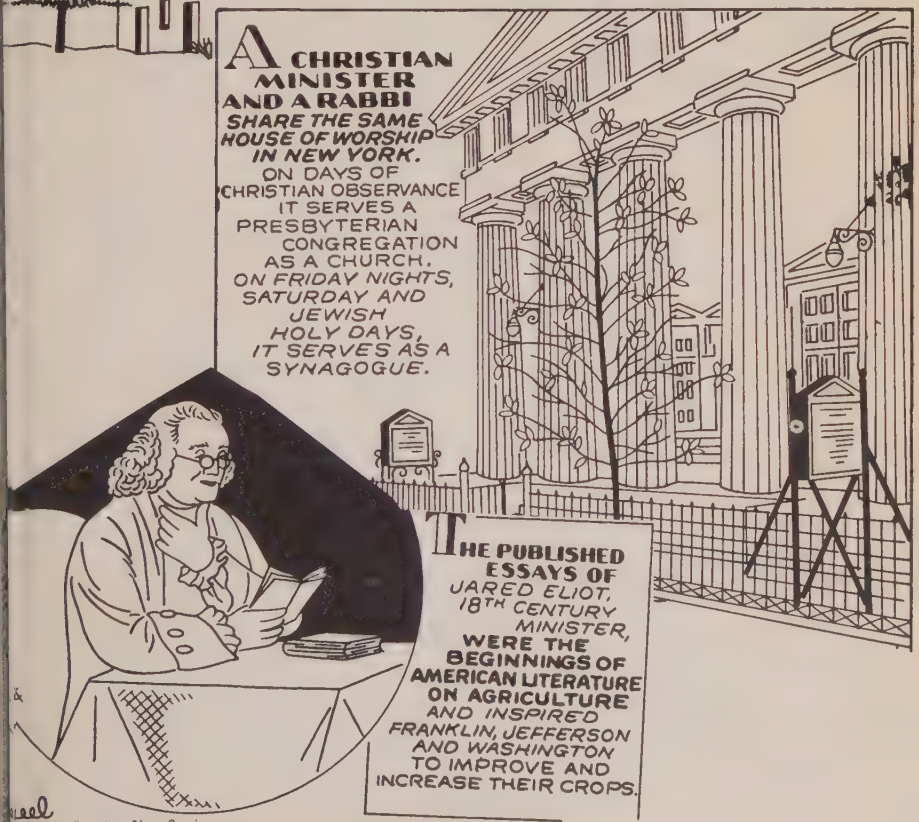
Religious News Service

AS A CHRISTIAN CIVILIZATION SUSTAINED BY ORIENTALS IN AN ORIENTAL SETTING, FILIPINOS REGARD THEIR NATION AS A WINDOW THROUGH WHICH THE EAST AND WEST CAN VIEW EACH OTHER WITH GREATER CLARITY.



THE ALTARPIECE IN ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH, LEELAND, MD., A LAST SUPPER PAINTED BY HESSELIUS IN 1721, IS THE FIRST RELIGIOUS PAINTING KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN DONE TO ORDER IN THE ENGLISH COLONIES.

A CHRISTIAN MINISTER AND A RABBI SHARE THE SAME HOUSE OF WORSHIP IN NEW YORK. ON DAYS OF CHRISTIAN OBSERVANCE IT SERVES A PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION AS A CHURCH. ON FRIDAY NIGHTS, SATURDAY AND JEWISH HOLY DAYS, IT SERVES AS A SYNAGOGUE.



THE PUBLISHED ESSAYS OF JARED ELIOT, 18TH CENTURY MINISTER, **WERE THE BEGINNINGS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE ON AGRICULTURE** AND INSPIRED FRANKLIN, JEFFERSON AND WASHINGTON TO IMPROVE AND INCREASE THEIR CROPS.

Religious News Service

PROTESTANT REPORTS ON 1960 TRAVELS IN RUSSIA. In the November issue of 'World Call', Rev.Dr.George Earle Owen gave a concise report on his recent stay in Russia, and what he observed in the religious life of that country.

Dr.Owen, who has had an intense interest in the Russian church, spent part of last summer in Russia, where he traveled freely, inquiring of church leaders concerning their ministries. He is chairman of the division of general departments of the United Christian Missionary Society.

He found, in Russia, that there was definitely freedom in worship, but over it stands an atheistic government, literally 'breathing down its neck'. Statistically, he gives figures he obtained which show nine main branches of Christianity functioning in the USSR, as well as Moslem, Jewish, Buddhist, and others. These figures reveal, that in 1956, there were 22,000 Russian Orthodox churches, 32,000 priests, 100 bishops, 2 theological seminaries, 8 seminaries, and 69 monasteries. Moslems are reported to have the next largest group of people; then come the Armenians in importance. After them are the various phases of Protestantism: Lutherans (350,000 in Estonia, 600,000 in Latvia); Baptists with 5,400 churches and 545,000 members; and the assorted remainder.

Dr.Owen gave his ideas as to why this situation existed and why Communism arose. He said that the social and political life of the common people became worse and worse, thru wars and poor administration of government under the czars and boyars(nobility); he points out that the official Russian Orthodox Church, during this same period, preached about 'happiness later' but the clergy accrued wealth and some even wore diamond buckles on their shoes; the Church itself owned 900,000 serfs, under the feudal structure. The revolutionists attacked the Church during the uprising, because it represented all that the czars stood for. When Bolshevism finally became the official government it issued decrees separating church and state, but allowing the citizen the privilege of 'private indulgence' in religious propaganda; atheism, however, was declared the official 'religion' of the State.

What then, asks Dr.Owen, brought about the change on the part of the government towards the Church? This came on June 22, 1941, says Dr.Owen, when the Nazi armies occupied Russia, and the stifled Orthodox Church opened its coffers in defense of the country and poured millions of rubles into the war; in addition, Sergius, head of the Orthodox Church, declared against the invaders, and for the homeland. From then on, religion was recognized as an 'ally' of the State rather than as an 'enemy'. This brought measures of relief and new 'freedoms'. Today, the State 'employs' the Church to its ends, and, in turn, gives 'favors' as compensation.

- As an example of what the State does for the Church, from time to time: - repair work on the famous Russian Orthodox Cathedral of St.Sophia in Novgorod, which was severely damaged in the war, is making good progress. The repair is financed by the government, in its program to restore such ancient structures.(St.Sophia was originally built in 1045-52 to replace an original wooden structure destroyed by fire in 989. Among its treasures are two bronze doors from Sigtuna, ancient capital of Sweden. - ED)

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THE QUESTION OF PETER'S SUPREMACY - SUBJECT OF ARTICLE BY ORTHO Father Gregory Abboud, pastor of St.George's Syrian Orthodox Church, Toronto,Canada, recently formulated an article (Nov.1960), that appeared in 'Protestant Action' magazine. The article is entitled: 'The Question of Peter's Supremacy'.

Father Abboud gives detailed, Scripture analysis to show categorically that the answer is 'no'. In addition to the Scriptures, he cites the Church Fathers, as well as the writing of one Jesuit Priest, Giorgio Bartoli, who stated: 'At the time of the Vatican Council a book was published under the title 'Quaestio', which examined into the opinions of the Fathers of the Church upon the subject: it found that 8 Fathers interpreted the (Biblical passage ,S.Matt.16:18) word 'rock' as meaning all the Apostles, collectively; 16 Fathers took it as meaning Christ Himself; 17 applied it to St.Peter: 44 interpreted it to mean the faith which Peter confessed. Nowhere is there any case where Peter referred to his authority as the 'head of the Church'.'

Summarizing his various arguments, the Syrian Archimandrite states that Peter failed to 'act like the head of the Church.(e.g.- i.Christ referred to him as 'satan' ii.Peter denied Christ

. and the 'cock crowed' iii. Paul termed Peter as the 'chief of dissimulators iv. Peter d to eat meat with the gentiles and had to be upbraided by God, thru a vision of animals vn in a napkin; and many other examples unnamed. - ED.) Father Abboud then asks this cant question: If Peter failed to prove and act as 'head of Christs Church', how can his sed 'successors' do, or claim to do, what Peter couldn't do himself?

'rotestant Action' is published at 138 Main Street, Toronto 13, Canada; a yearly subscrip-on is only $2.00 and it is well worth while reading from the Church-State viewpint.-ED.

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TIDE MESSAGE OF PATRIARCH ATHENAGORAS STRESSES NEED FOR UNITY.
enical Patriarch Athenagoras of Istanbul, spiritual leader of Eastern Orthodoxy, in his de message, said that the accomplishment of Christian unity 'is the greatest responsibility n our day by the Church and all the faithful who bear the name of Christ'.

urch would be able to exert immeasurable influence on the fate and destiny of the people ng on earth, if she were united and not divided', he declared.

xistence of many Churches, under the name of Christ, and their separate efforts, have ned the social and cultural activity and mission of the Church...'

is interesting to note that the Patriarch did not bring out the fact that the purpose for hich the Church was founded by Christ was for the 'salvation of mankind' thru the Grace God, and this 'not of ourselves'. He mentions that the Church could 'influence the fate nd destiny of the people' and that the 'social and cultural activity' of the Church has been eakened by 'division'. Where then is the 'spiritual activity', which is the true heart and fe of the Church of Christ; it appears the Patriarch is thinking more like the Vatican, an Orthodoxy, which is a democracy. - ED.

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ODOX METROPOLITAN 'HINTS AT' ORTHODOX-ANGLICAN-CATHOLIC TALK.
ting, 'more historic' than the recent one between Pope John and the Archbishop of Canter-was 'hinted at' by Greek Orthodox Metropolitan of Canada, Archbishop Athenagoras of to.

nterview, the prelate said that the Pope, the Anglican Primate, and the Ecumenical Pat- could very well get together in the near future. He said this meeting would be even historic' than the Vatican Council, which is planned for 1962.

asked what type of 'union' he would prefer, the bishop replied with the thought: a federa- Churches, comparable to the ancient ways of Church government; such a federation give equal status to all participating communions.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Fisher, said last month, after his return home, that there should be 'more and frequent' talks between leaders of the Christian Churches; and that his would further 'unity' more than any other thing. He said such talks are 'like a bit of leaven in the dough, of no use until it has had time to work its way and make the dough rise.....such talks begin best on the practical problems of living together.....Ignorance of (one another)...is..(the cause of why the Churches) ...feel able to believe and do some of the things which..(they)..believe..' He added: 'the ground for mutual exploration can be with such things as a return to Biblical theology, theology of the liturgical movement, new views on the relation of church authority to civic freedoms, to natural rights, and to guide and stimulate...'

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OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - JANUARY 18th TO 25th. Both Catholic and Protestant and Orthodox Christians, the world over, will offer prayers hristian Unity' during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18th-25th, 1961.

Observances of the Week will take different forms in different areas. In many communities, Christians of different confessional backgrounds will gather in the same services. In others, services of different groups will be held at the same time. In some areas, special lectures on Christian unity will be given under joint Roman Catholic and Protestant auspices.

Both Protestant-Orthodox- and Roman Catholics are using the same 'theme' for this year's observance: - 'I am the light of the world'. To this end, more than 1,000,000 copies of both World Council of Church's and Roman Catholic's leaflets, in more than a dozen languages, are being distributed in over 50 countries.

WCC spokesmen said that, regardless of 'irreconcilable differences', all true prayer for unity is 'common prayer for all', because it is offered to one Lord, and no matter what may be the differences in our respective understandings of what unity may be, 'the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words'(Rom.8:26).

- In Vienna, Austria, the Roman Catholic hierarchy has established a fund for Greek Orthodox theologians to take advanced study in Catholic theology. The reason for this, they say, is to educate competent individuals who are sufficiently versed in comparative theology, to be able to enter into objective discussions with theologians, from various communions in the future. For the study year 1960-61, six theologians from Greece and Yugoslavia are presently in Vienna. - ED.

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CASTRO - CUBA - AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC HIERARCHY. Premier Castro issued a challenge to the Roman Catholic hierarchy to excommunicate him and his government. The challenge was given as a result of the hierarchy 'disciplining' Father German Lence, head of the Catholic movement 'With the Cross - With the Fatherland'.

The movement, that Father Lence is a leader of, is interested in the native, Cuban laity and clergy; it is a strong supporter of the revolution; and is violently opposed to the fascist priests of Spain that staff many of Cuba's Catholic churches. Because of Father Lence's support of the Castro government, Manuel Cardinal Arteago y Betancourt, 81 year-old Archbishop of Havana, caused his suspension from all 'priestly functions'.

Premier Castro explained how Cubans felt about the action of the hierarchy: -

'When the bloody tyrant Batista needed His Excellency or His Lordship, or whatever he is called (i.e.-Cardinal Betancourt - ED.), in the presidential palace, there was His Excellency in the bloody and corrupt palace of the tyrant.....that Batista had stolen 50,60 or 100 million pesos - this did not matter to the cardinal.....for he went there to give a Judas kiss to the bloody dictator. Misery reigned in our country - but that did not matter. Judges, monks, military, landowners, financiers, speculators, monopolists - all these were more or less the same. That the previous rulers murdered - that did not matter. That they robbed - that did not matter. That the sick were robbed of food - that did not matter. ..... Now, we do not interfere in the Churches. We do not advise the bishops on what chapter of the Bible they should read on a Sunday.'

The Premier then advised the hierarchy to stay out of politics and maintain separation of Church and State and not take the 'fascist line', as in Spain and elsewhere, where they constantly seek to be both ruler and bishop.

As to Father Lence, the Premier said that it is most interesting to see the actions of the hierarchy with Father Lence, who is a 'Very worthy Cuban priest', when the hierarchy does 'not excommunicate any priest-defender of Franco...they do not excommunicate any priest-defender of murderers in Algeria....they do not excommunicate the murderers of the Congolese....they do not excommunicate the great exploiters nor great criminals....they do not excommunicate Cardinal Spellman, who is united with the exploitative and fascist groups, the supporter of those who 'bomb' and sabotage.....but, they seek to excommunicate a priest simply for having defended the revolution, which is for the people'.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX PATRIARCH ALEXEI. Patriarch Alexei is here shown on the recent occasion of his visit to Athens, Greece, where he was seated on the Episcopal Throne during a Thanksgiving Service, in his honor. He spent three days in Greece, as guest of Archbishop Theokitos of Athens, head of the Greek Orthodox Church there. (see story on p.7) Said the Patriarch: 'closer cooperation of all sister Orthodox Churches with the Great Mother Church (Ecumenical Patriarchate) as their head, will enable solving of great...Christian problems'.

RSHIP OF RUSSIAN CHURCH PROPERTY IN ISRAEL IS SETTLED. Israeli entatives have recognized Soviet ownership of Russian Orthodox Church properties in The properties had been held in trusteeship by the British mandatory government in ne following the 1917 Russian Revolution; since Israel was established as a Nation the government has been administrator.

tions, for a settlement, have been in progress, off and on, since last July. The actual ent calls for the purchase of all the properties, by the State of Israel, for an undisclosed hich is to be negotiated; the only properties, to be exempted from sale, are all churches, , and other ecclesiastical buildings that are under control of the Moscow Patriarchate.

ldings, which are to be actually sold, are huge, old-fashioned structures; originally, d been built as pilgrim hostels by the Imperial Russian Orthodox Palestine Society of Duke Sergei. (He was assassinated in 1905.-ED.) Presently, these same 'hostels' are accomodate the Israeli Supreme Court, the police headquarters, and the Ministry of Unofficially, the properties are estimated to have a value of some $100,000,000.

CHRISTMAS IN THE HOLY LAND. Eastern Orthodox, Armenian, and Roman Catholic Services were held in various places and sectors of the Holy Land; inasmuch as both the Old and New Calendars find observance among the various groups, Services were not only held on Dec. 25th, but also in January by Russian Orthodox and Armenians(the two latter for varyi reasons, however.-ED.).

The Latin Church held Midnight Mass in the Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth, Israel; als Mass was held in Bethlehem, Jordan. Due to the constant state of nerves between Israel and Jordan, it is difficult indeed for inhabitants of one State to 'go across' into the other to visit 'holy places', at the different times of the year. For instance, Israel only granted 3,000 permits, with priority to clergy and nuns - to the elderly - or to those making their first such pilgrimage. Jordan usually rejects about 7% of the ones the Israel approves; this is because of security reasons.

When time came for the Russian Orthodox to enter Jordan, for the Old Calendar observance, more than 2,000 Israeli residents (mainly Arabs from Galilee) applied at Mandelbaum Gate. Some 220 Orthodox were denied entry as 'suspected' Communists. Even Archimandrite Augustin, head of the Russian Orthodox Mission in Israel, was refused permission; this was a bit peculiar, inasmuch as King Hussein had personally received Russian Patriarch Alexei onl a few weeks before, on his tour of the Holy Land; at that time, Archimandrite Augustin had been permitted to enter Jordan - but, at Christmas, he had suddenly become a 'security risk

As to the Armenians, most people believe that they observe Christmas, as such. This, howev is not really true. As the Armenians explain, the early Church, for 250 years, did not observ Christmas as a Feast Day; in fact, Epiphany (Baptism of Jesus) was considered the time when the Messiahship of Christ became 'manifest', or 'born' - and not a stable manger in Bethlel The physical birth date is not known, and is considered as only an historical event, which wa prelude to the great 'advent' or 'coming down' of the Spirit. Thus, the Armenians remember day of the Baptism as the 'revelation of God'. On that day, they greet one another with: 'Chri is born and revealed' - the response is: 'Blessed is the revelation of Christ'. The Armenia then, place the emphasis on the Baptism of Christ; on the coming of the Messiahship; on the manifesting of the Godhead.

- Christians , everywhere, would do well to 'hearken' to the message of the Armenians; the fanfare, pageantry, commercialism, neon-lights, and other typical carnival 'airs' do not contribute to the complete simplicity and stillness and beauty of the original Christn Eve and Morn of long ago. Reverence has been replaced with a tawdry and cheap portra of what the world 'thinks' God is. The Spirit, unfortunately, is dying a gradual death, ye by year, as commercialism advances still more and more into the ranks of the 'faithful'

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GREECE RECEIVES 52,000 TONS OF FOOD FROM AMERICA, IN 1960-61. More than $9,000,000 worth of relief, surplus foodstuffs, over 52,000 tons, have been, and will be distributed to Greek peoples during the current fiscal year of July 1,1960 - June 30,1961.

The total, which includes wheat-flour, corn-flour, milk, rice, and wheat, is mainly sponsore by the Church World Service (overseas agency of National Council of Churches), and the Am ican Mission to the Greeks, and CARE (Cooperative American Relief Everywhere). The actu distribution in Greece has been under the care of the Greek Orthodox Church and the Minist of Welfare.

Under this program, supplemental food goes to more than 400,000 needy families, 105,000 re ugees, 400,000 school children, 65,000 children in summer camps, 70,000 persons in hospi

In addition, the U.S. government has made an emergency donation of 20,000 tons of wheat to blight-stricken farmers of Crete.

- During the last six years, over 200,000 tons of food have been donated, thru 11 America voluntary organizations, from U.S. surplus food stocks, to Greece. - ED.

DOMESTIC

ESTMAS MESSAGES OF ORTHODOX PRELATES. Archbishop Iakovos (James), of the k Archdiocese of the Americas, in a Christmas message, foresaw a future era, in which onfusions and rumors of war will one day recede before the Father.....the future age is estined to be an age of....materialism....injustice, tyranny, or atheism.....let us set an ple for the unbelievers thru our own personal lives.....strengthening and supporting the nderprivileged,..the wronged, the poor, the ailing, and the imprisoned....(in this way)..... e on earth, nor any might, will be strong enough to triumph over the Lord Almighty.'

p Orestes Chornock, Carpatho-Russian Orthodox prelate, in his Christmas message, told 'status' of mankind, before and after the 'holy night'. In his words: 'Before the birth of t, paganism enveloped the terrible night of immorality and falsehood. With the coming of , a new era, a new epoch was launched'. The Bishop also highlighted the fact that whoever s the 'holy night' as merely another day, has no feeling, 'and can hardly call himself a tian'.

ishop Iakovos also, in a second Christmas message, took the same essential import as ed by Bishop Orestes; namely: - 'It is essential that the holidays regain their Christian , which has been lost thru worldly and material conceptions....(it must become a time of) ededicating of ourselves to....the Christian heritage....keeping alive its flame...shaking off rgy...and rebuilding our...identity'.

he Voice of America, in a 26-hour series of 'Christmas morning' broadcasts, beamed, in urn, to listening audiences in all the world's time zones, the voices and greetings of many rthodox prelates and clergy. A few of these were: Metropolitan John (Ukrainian), Father ieglais of Los Angeles(Latvian), Bishop Andrei(Bulgarian), Father Vladimir Kovacevich Serbian). Special Russian Orthodox Broadcasts were also made on January 7th,Russian old Calendar Christmas. - ED.

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IAN CHURCH JOINS NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES. The Syrian(Orthodox) h of Antioch (Archdiocese of USA and Canada) was received into membership of the al Council of Churches last month, at that Council's General Assembly meeting in San isco,Calif.

ssion of the Syrian Church, which has 50,000 members, brings to 34 the total member unions in the National Council.

uarters of the Church's American diocese is in Hackensack, N.J. Dr.K.M.Simon, dean Cathedral Church, there, pointed out that his denomination is not to be confused with rian Antiochian Orthodox Church, whose headquarters are in Brooklyn,N.Y.; this latter also belongs to the National Council, he said.

Mar Ignatius Jacob III, the Syrian(Orthodox) Church's Patriarch of Antioch, was in this ountry last spring on an extended visit to the various far-flung parishes of his Church, nruout the world. While in the U.S., he toured many areas, accompanied by a famous eligious leader, also of his Church, namely:- Archbishop Athanasius Y.Samuel, whose iscoveries of the 'Dead Sea Scrolls', in the early '50's, were one of the greatest archeological finds of history. The Archbishop heads the American diocese of the Church, rom Hackensack,N.J. (Archbishop Samuel realized a 'substantial' sum of money for the Scrolls' - ED.)

FOUR MAJOR FAITHS TO BE REPRESENTED AT PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATIO
Representatives of the country's Four Major Faiths will participate in the inauguration of the new president of the United States on January 20th.

Prominent clergy of Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish bodies have been designated to offer various prayers, invocation, or benedictions during the ceremony in front of the U.S. Capitol.

Led off by Cardinal Cushing's invocation, Archbishop Iakovos(Greek Orthodox) follows the solo of Marian Anderson with a prayer. House Speaker Sam Rayburn will administer the Oath of Office to vice-president Lyndon B. Johnson, and then Dr.John Barclay (Central Christian Church of Austin,Tex.) will give a prayer. Poet Robert Frost will then read a specially composed poem for the occasion, followed by Chief Justice Warren administering the Oath to John F.Kennedy. After the president's message, Rabbi Nelson Glueck(Hebrew Union College) will deliver the benediction.

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CATHOLICS ARE PREDOMINANT GROUP IN NEW 87th CONGRESS. Roman Catholi in the House of Representatives are more numerous than members of any other single religio affiliation; this, despite the constant cry of Catholic clergy and laity that 'Catholics are discri inated against in public office'.

The new Congress shows 86 Catholics that have been 'seated', as opposed to 76 Methodists, 6 Presbyterians, 52 Baptists, 53 Episcopalians, 19 Congregational Christian, 18 Lutherans, 13 Disciples of Christ, 11 Jews.

One of the most striking characteristics of both Catholic and Jewish members of the House is that they are predominantly Democratic; for instance, of 86 Catholic members, only 14 are Republicans; of 11 Jews, only 1 is a Republican. From this, it is apparent that the Democratic Party is also the Catholic party.

- In case an opposing voice were raised to say: 'What about Protestants being partisan to one Party or another?' The answer is: of 76 Methodists, 48 are Democrats; of 61 Presbyterians, 21 are Democrats; of 53 Episcopalians, 27 are Democrats. From this it is quite apparent that 'religious distribution of Protestants' does not follow 'Party Lines'.E

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METHODISTS OUTNUMBER OTHER DENOMINATIONS IN 87th CONGRESS-SENATE. With a total of 19 members, Methodists outnumber other religious bodies in the U.S.Senate in the 87th Congress.

Baptists are second with 15; Episcopalians with 13; Presbyterians with 10; and Roman Catholic are tied for third ranking, with 13.

As an indication of how Roman Catholics seize office, wherever possible, note two examples this year in the Senate: President-elect Kennedy 'ordered' Governor Furcolo of Mass., who had just been defeated, to replace himself with a former buddy, Benjamin A.Smith II, who is an active Roman Catholic layman(he has six children, all of whom are enrolled in Catholic schools; in addition, he has absolutely no governmental, executive or legislative experience whatsoever - ED.). The other prime example was that in Wyoming, where Senator-elect E.Keith Thomson(Rep.) died suddenly; the Governor, Joseph Hickey, who is a prominent Catholic, and a Democrat, didn't bother to replace him with a Republican, but nominated himself as the replacement Senator.

- As indicated in the news item on the House of Representatives, the majority of Catholics are always in the Democratic column; for instance, in this Senate, there are 13 Catholics with 12 of them being Democrats. - ED.

- In reference to Kennedy's calling for the 'replacement' of himself by Catholic layman,

Benjamin A.Smith II, it is interesting to note that during the recent campaign, Kennedy made many promises to the voters. Significant among these 'promises' was one of Oct. 7th,1960, at Wittenberg College,Springfield,O., where he pledged that '.....all appointments, both high and low, will be made on the basis of ability - without regard to race, creed, national origin, sex, section, or occupation'. Why then did Senator Kennedy pick a Catholic, without any experience whatsoever in governmental fields, to succeed him as Senator? Why did he pick his brother, Robert Kennedy, a 35-year old lawyer, with very limited experience in governmental fields, to be attorney general, when the country is filled with men of great astuteness, legal talent, and ability? - ED.

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: OF 'TRUE SPIRITUAL MOTIVES' FOUND IN SURVEY OF CHURCH. In a y conducted by the research dep't. of the Congregational Christian Churches, it was dised that one third of listed 'members' are only 'nominally' religious, or 'spiritually mot-'.

shio Fukuyama, director of research, said that the other two-thirds showed religious ation of two types; the larger part of this group were motivated by an approach to relig- an organizational activity, rather than a soul-searching motive, that called intellect votion into operation; this latter motivation was common only to the minority section two-thirds group.

he concludes, it is apparent that the churches are preoccupied with having 'active, zational members' at the expense of the 'true spiritual expression'. He said the psychal 'urge' behind these motivations ranged from true sincere seeking to wanting to be a f a popular 'surge of piety', that was becoming a 'class characteristic' of certain secof society that wanted to remain in an 'accepted' strata of the social system.

udy showed that there were four 'typed styles' of members: i.the religiously knowledmember ii.the organizational member iii.the unquestioning believer iv.the inwardencing, or devotional, member. In addition, there was a fifth group, termed the 'nominal' er, which group formed 33% of all 'members'. 44% were found to fall into group ii. and i. The minority, naturally, was comprised of the groups iii. and iv.

hen one considers that a church 'should have' great numbers, it is well to remember at Jesus Christ had only 12 Apostles and 70 Disciples. He said 'I pray not for the world, t those whom Thou has't given me'. Thus it should be with the Church; it should turn om seeking memberships to swell the coffers and seek the truly devout, who will swell e tide of the Spirit. - ED.

* * * * * * *

TE' ARCHBISHOP BOHACHEVSKY DIES. Epiphany night, January 6th, 1961, saw the death of the Roman Catholic 'Uniate' leader, Archbishop Constantine Bohachevsky, in ne in Philadelphia,Pa.

of some 300,000 Ukrainian 'Uniate' Catholics, the Metropolitan-Archbishop was 76. ded the 'Byzantine Rite Ukrainian Catholic Church, and held sway over all the U.S., for New York and the New England States. He had been head*of the diocese since 1958, e had been bishop of the diocese since 1924.(*i.e.-Metropolitan)

e 'Uniate', altho they pretend to be Eastern Orthodox, are actually a channel used by me to endeavor to subvert Orthodox into becoming in 'union'(i.e.-Uniates) with the tican. - ED.

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ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES ADOPT 'TITHING'. In recent moves last month, man Catholic parishes adopted the practice of 'tithing' by members, to support the finances of the churches.

In Little Rock,Ark., All Souls Parish, under Msgr.Francis A.Allen, announced that the churc would, henceforth, cancel all bingo, raffles, carnivals,etc. and institute 'tithing'. He explaine that this was 'God's own plan for church support' and to initiate the program he was assigni 300 men of the parish the job of contacting every wage-earner of the parish to arrange for th pledging of the first 10% of each individual's gross income to God'.

Following suit, Father John G.Weigand, pastor of St.Joseph of the Palisade Church in West New York, N.J., told his parishioners that they must give 10% of their income; 5% must go t the Church and 5% to charity to be specified by the Church. Accordingly, he said, there will be no more carnivals, bazaars, raffles, or other fund-raising affairs in the parish. He said, however, BINGO WILL CONTINUE, as before. He explained that most bingo players come from 'outside' the parish, and that taking gambling receipts from them was also part of 'God' plan' for raising money for the Church. (His parish has 23,000 baptized Catholics; it is the largest parish in the Newark diocese.-ED)

- Another interesting way to finance,the building of church-related structures, was demon strated in Orlando,Fla. in a Protestant Church there; A half million dollar church was planned; 5% bonds were issued thru the church's bank and offered to the public. The bond issue was in $250, $500, and $1,000 denominations, due serially. They were fully subscribed for. - ED.

- In still another approach to the problem of finances, business brokers are now contactin churches with packaged proposals. In this deal, churches acquire business property by making a down payment, then leasing it back to management of the company that operate the property. The company then pays 10% of all profit, plus another portion of earnings all,of course, now tax-free - applied on the remaining purchase price. (Christ here?-

A monk in his cell (see story opposit

nued from page 2) -

traditions date the occupancy of Mt.Athos, by Christians, back to the time of the Virgin (these are pure legend - ED.); other tradition date the origin of the monastic existence time of Emperor Constantine (these have some truth, possibly - ED.). Factually, how- the most reliable evidence is that of a decree of Emperor Basilius Macedo of 855 A.D.; s decree he assumed Imperial Protection over the hermits of the mountain. Within one ed years, there must have been positive monastic organizations established, also. It is , for instance, that the Abbey of Lavra, oldest of existing monasteries on the Mount, was in 963 A.D. by Emperor Nicephorus Phocas. The Constitution of Constantinus Monomach- ssued in 1046 A.D., tells of 180 establishments, with 700 monks. Today, there are twenty, , autonomous monasteries on Mt.Athos. There are also scores of smaller groups, or itages, all of which are more or less dependent on one of the main monastic communities.

the monastic communities, except one, observe the 'old calendar' (see News Item on p.11). edi, the only one observing the Gregorian Calendar, is also the only community that lets e o'clock mean 'noon'. All other monasteries, following Turkish custom, put twelve o'clock ut sunset (7 p.m.). There is one exception, however, namely - that of Iviron, which puts e at sunrise, after the ancient Persian custom.

reatest height of prosperity of the Mount was in the 12th Century, when, perhaps, there upwards of 15,000 monks; at that time, the Mount was also a great center of learning, as s of influence, secular and ecclesiastical. During the Roman Crusades, the Papists d and pillaged the Mount several times, even as they did to Constantinople and practically other Christian city, village, and home they could lay their hands on. (Some people say e Crusaders killed, raped and pillaged more Christians than they did Saracens.-ED.) As lt of 'the times' the Mount was forced to 'unite' with Roman Papacy; the Papists even o far as to establish a Latin Church 'Abbey of Amalfitones' on the Mount, but it never ered. The monks of Athos, meanwhile, waited for the first opportunity to throw off the of Rome', that had been imposed on them, and in 1313 A.D. they formally took this action.

the sacking of Constantinople, and the collapse of the protective power of the Byzantine re, the monks were forced to give allegiance to the new Turkish Ottomans; for this 'mercy' ad to pay an annual tribute to the conquerors. From this time on, Mt.Athos declined rap- Especially following the Greek War of Independence, 1821, there was a sharp decline; this ue to the fact that many of the monks joined the Greek army.

1800's there was, however, a sharp influx of Russians, who took over an abandoned Monastery (that of S.Panteleimon - known as The Russiko) and built it up till it had 1500 monks. Because of this 'fearsome' growth, the Greek monks became frightened ey might lose control of the Mount to 'outsiders'. Therefore, the Greeks fought to keep ketes' (unorganized and dependent hermitages) from becoming full-fledged monastic unities. (Each organized community has a right to have a seat on the Synod - ED.) The ans have two such 'sketes' - those of St.Andrew and the Prophet Elias.

are a few other 'outside' invasions of the Greek domination; namely - those of the n monastery of Chilandari; the Romanian 'skete' of Prodromos; and the Bulgarian's phou.

into a few details as to how the 'shrinkage' of monks has affected different monasteries, of several is here given: In 1912, the total population of Athos had gone to about 7,000; 0 this number had again been reduced by 50%. The Serbian monastery, for example, has rom 80 monks (1930) to 43 (1950); Lavra had 600 monks in 1930, with 200 in 1953; 'Russiko', Panteleimon, had more than 200, but today there are only a few over 50.

this it can be seen that dedicated young men, or older, are needed to carry on the work of institutions that knew the 'glories of old'. Monies are also badly needed to keep the mon- s of these ancient structures in repair and to furnish other needed supplies for the some nonks that still inhabit the regions of Mt.Athos. International Money Orders can be sent one of the Monasteries, or they may be addressed to the Synod of Mt.Athos, Karyes, Mt. with instructions to distribute as the donor wishes to have done.

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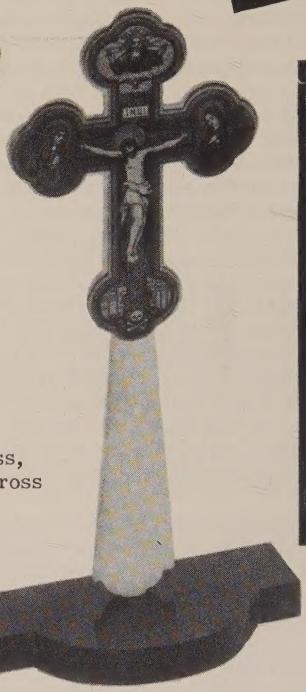

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